

Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Email: victoria.cusworth@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library

Our ref
VC/LH

Please Contact
Councillor Victoria Cusworth

Direct Line
07824895314

4th March 2024

Councillor Simon Ball
Leader of the Opposition

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball

Question at Council – 28th February 2024

Thank you for your question to Council as follows:

Cllr Cusworth, what evidence can you provide that the service has moved forward during your tenure?

During my tenure, I am pleased that Children and Young People's Services have continued to make positive progress and I would like to put on record my thanks to the hard-working diligent staff that make this happen.

At our last Ofsted inspection when the service was rated as 'Good', Ofsted said *"Childrens services are a clear priority for Rotherham Council from the Leaders of the council to the cabinet and across the different political parties. A learning culture is set from the top. The Council Leader, Cabinet Member and Chief Executive rigorously scrutinise and challenge the performance data and quality assure findings for children."*

In both March 2019 and October 2020, when Focused Visits were undertaken by Ofsted they praised Rotherham Children's Services and its progress. To quote

“Strong and effective partnerships enabled the early identification of vulnerable children. Leaders, Senior Managers and staff have effective oversight of children and young people who need to be safeguarded and supported”.

During my tenure:

- The number of children in care has fallen and more children are living safely with their families
- We’ve continued to deliver new in-house residential provision
- We secured funding from the government for Family Hubs and the Start for Life Programmes
- We’re delivering hundreds more local school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities

There is always more to do, and I will never rest on my laurels but the evidence shows significant progress is being made.

I hope you find my response helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Victoria Cusworth
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People’s Services
Labour and Co-op | Kilnhurst and Swinton East Ward
Peer Mentor and Member Peer | Local Government Association Labour Group